

# ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE

The background is a dark, textured illustration. In the upper left, a deity with a large, ornate crown and multiple faces is depicted. Below the deity, a chariot with a large spoked wheel is visible. To the right, a woman in a green sari is shown in a dynamic pose, possibly dancing or performing a ritual. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional Indian art, with a focus on religious and cultural themes.

**Indian Knowledge of Humanities & Social Sciences (IKS10)**

- **Vikramaditya Das** (A92105823003)
- **Prem Saha** (A92105823009)
- **Shruti Chhetri** (A92105823014)
- **Taparsi Roy** (A92105823023)
- **Ushnish Bhattacharyya** (A92105823027)



# UCTI

ating  
e. Through  
e cultural  
ance  
ese  
s.



# Contents

---

1. PREHISTORIC
  2. BRONZE AGE
  3. SECOND URBANIZATION
  4. CLASSICAL PERIOD
  5. EARLY MIDDLE AGES
- 





# **PRE HISTORIC**

(9000 – 8000 BCE)



# Baghor Paleolithic Shrine

---

- A likely shrine dating back to the Upper Paleolithic period (9000–8000 BCE) has been unearthed at Baghor in the Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh, India.
- This ancient structure, made of stone, is believed to have been dedicated to the worship of the Goddess, particularly the deity known as Shakti.





A photograph of ancient stone ruins, likely from the Bronze Age, featuring walls made of large, irregular stones. The scene is set against a clear blue sky, and the ground is covered with sparse green grass and small plants. The text "BRONZE AGE" is prominently displayed in large, bold, white capital letters, with "(5th-2nd Millennium BCE)" written below it in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# **BRONZE AGE**

(5th-2nd Millennium BCE)

# Early Harappan Phase

❖ **Kalibangan** and **Rakhigarhi** show early urban development in the Harappan civilization.

- Kalibangan has fortifications, grid layouts, and drainage systems from around 3000 BCE.
- Rakhigarhi, dating to 4000–3200 BCE, has planned settlements with structures aligned along streets and drainage systems.

❖ At Rakhigarhi, a major urban area of the Indus Valley Civilization dating from 4000–3200 BCE, archaeologists found planned settlements with streets intersecting at **right angles** and a well-developed public drainage system.

❖ Unlike other Bronze Age cultures, which primarily used sun-dried mud bricks, the Indus Valley civilization opted for **fired terracotta**



Kalibangan ruins



Rakhigarhi ruins

## ❖ Domestic Architecture

Houses in the Harappan civilization were built with bricks and flat roofs. They had wooden doors with locks, and windows had lattice shutters for airflow.

Bathing platforms connected to public drains, and latrines had drains leading outside.

Kitchens were either open-air or enclosed

## ❖ English Bond

- Harappan architecture introduced the world's first use of English bond in brick building.
- This method alternates headers and stretchers for stronger construction.

## ❖ Non-Harappan architecture

Some of the significant Non-Harappan chalcolithic urban developments in India are:-

- Balathal defense architecture
- Defensive walls having mud cores with stone revetments and rectangular bastions, dating from around 2400–1800 BCE



Ruins at Harappa



Walls Having English Bond



The background image shows the archaeological ruins of Mohenjo-daro, an ancient city in the Indus Valley. The ruins are constructed from baked bricks and feature a grid-like street pattern. In the foreground, there are several rectangular foundations and a circular structure. The site is surrounded by green vegetation and hills in the distance.

# **SECOND URBANIZATION**

**(1025 BCE – 320 BCE)**

- ❖ With the appearance of towns in the middle Gangetic basin in the **sixth century BCE**, a second urbanization began in India.
- ❖ A stone palace from before the Mauryan period was found in the ruins of Kausambi. The palace had **dressed stones** set in lime and covered with thick plaster. Its design resembled a fortress, complete with walls and towers.
- ❖ Discovery of this stone palace discredits the theory of foreign influence behind the rise of Indian stone architecture during Ashokan or Mauryan period.
- ❖ A technique of architecture applied here was using dressed stones as facing for a wall made of rubble core



Dressed stone masonry on rubble wall technique applied to Shingardar Stupa



## ❖ Mahajanapadas

From the time of the Mahajanapadas (**600 BCE-320 BCE**), walled and moated cities with large gates and multi-storied buildings which consistently used arched windows and doors and made intense use of wooden architecture, are important features of the architecture during this period



Part of the frieze in Sanchi Stupa 1 South Gate

## ❖ Buddhist caves

Buddhist monks were also in the habit of using natural caves, such as the **Saptaparni Caves**, southwest from Rajgir, Bihar. Many believe it to be the site in which Buddha spent some time before his



Saptaparni Cave





## ❖ Monasteries

- The first monasteries, like the **Jivakarama vihara** in Rajgir and **Ghositarama monastery** in Kausambi, were built during the time of the Buddha, around the **6th or 5th centuries BCE**.
- The Jivakarama monastery had two large halls, large dormitories for monks to eat and sleep together, following the rules of the Buddhist community. Later, more halls were added, similar to the design of some Barabar caves.

## ❖ Stupas

Buddhist stupas, iconic dome-shaped monuments, emerged in ancient India as significant religious structures. Originally, stupas were constructed to enshrine the relics of the Buddha or other revered figures. These relics could be bodily remains, such as bone fragments or ashes, or objects associated with the Buddha's life.



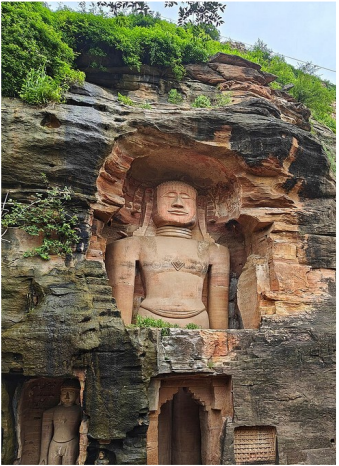


# CLASSICAL PERIOD (320 BCE - 550 CE)



## Monumental stone architecture

Emperor Ashoka, from 273 to 232 BCE, built the Pillars of Ashoka near Buddhist stupas, spreading relics of the Buddha across India. He also erected the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya and established hospitals across his empire. The Mauryan period, especially under Ashoka, saw impressive architectural achievements like the fortified city of Pataliputra and the Pillars of Ashoka, renowned for their precision and artistry.



## Decorated stupas

Soon after the first attempts at Sanchi Stupa No.2 around 125 BCE, stupas became adorned with elaborate sculptural reliefs. Full-fledged sculptural decorations depicting scenes from the life of the Buddha emerged shortly after at Bharhut around 115 BCE, followed by Bodh Gaya around 60 BCE, Mathura between 125–60 BCE, and again at Sanchi for the elevation of the toranas in the 1st century BCE/CE. Subsequently, Amaravati in the 1st–2nd century CE also saw extensive sculptural



## Rock-cut caves

Around 250 BCE, during Ashoka's rule, the sophisticated Barabar caves in Bihar were carved out of granite rock, showcasing remarkable technical skill with their polished surfaces. Following the decline of the Mauryan Empire in the 2nd century BCE and Buddhist persecutions, many Buddhists migrated to the Deccan under the Andhra dynasty's protection. This led to a shift in cave-building efforts to western India, where extensive religious cave construction, mainly Buddhist or Jain, continued until the 2nd century CE, highlighted by sites like the Karla Caves and the Pandavleni Caves.





## Truncated pyramidal temples

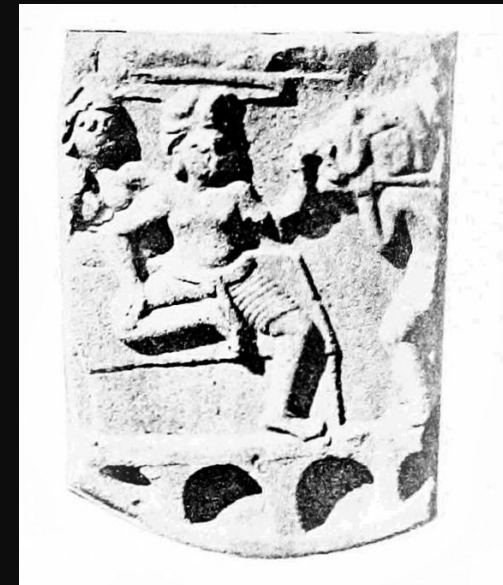
The Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya is among the earliest examples of Truncated Pyramidal temples, featuring niches holding Buddha images. Its structure culminates in a hemispherical stupa topped by finials, extending seamlessly from the temple's design.

This architectural style represents a transition from the aniconic stupa, dedicated to relic worship, to the iconic temple adorned with numerous Buddha and Bodhisattva images. The design of the Mahabodhi Temple greatly influenced the development of later Hindu temples



## Palatial architecture

Archaeological digs at Kausambi by the ASI revealed a palace dating from the 8th century BCE to the 2nd century CE, built in six phases. The final phase, around the 1st to 2nd century CE, featured a large structure divided into three blocks with two galleries. The central block likely served as an audience hall surrounded by rooms for the ruler's residence. Constructed with bricks and stones, the palace had underground chambers and employed true arch principles in its construction. Unfortunately, the superstructure and galleries collapsed under a layer of ash, indicating destruction by fire.



The background image shows an archaeological site with ancient Indian architecture. A large, weathered brick stupa with a conical top is the central focus in the background. In the foreground, there are several smaller, tiered brick structures, possibly stupas or pillars, some of which are partially collapsed or damaged. The ground is a mix of dirt and stone. The overall scene is a historical site, likely a monastery or a place of worship from the Early Middle Ages in India.

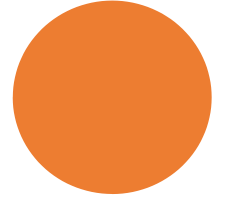
# **EARLY MIDDLE AGES**

## **(550–1200 CE)**



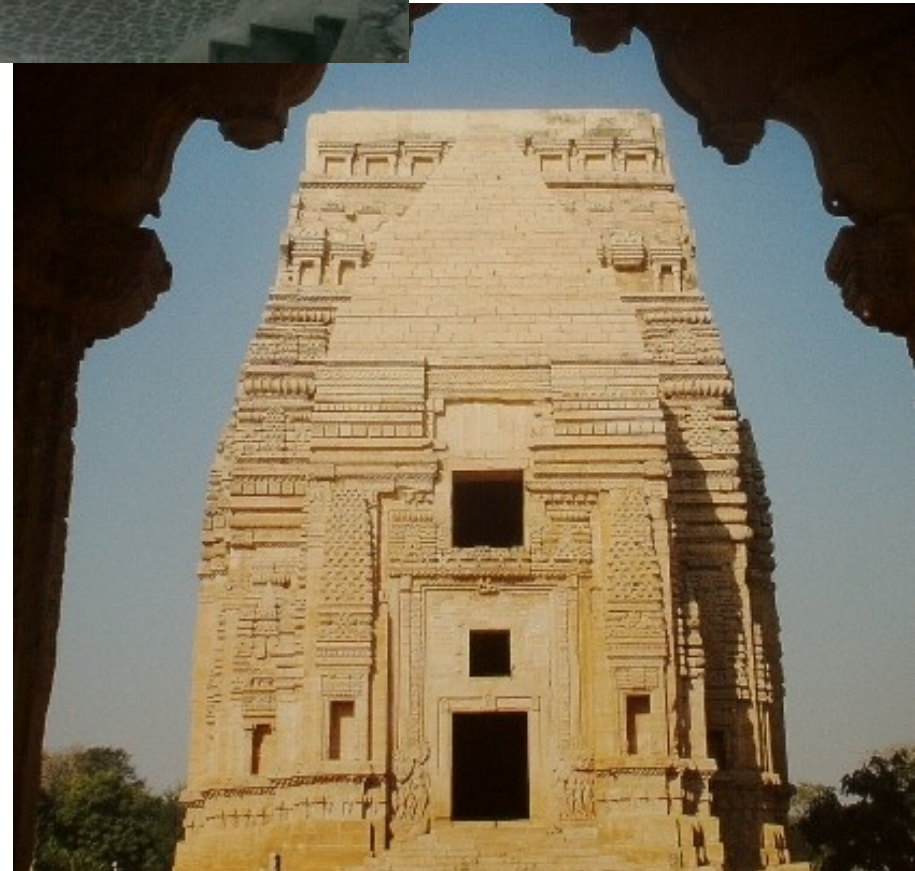
## Corbel arches

Corbel arches in India date back to the Indus Valley civilization, seen in drains at sites like Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. The oldest surviving examples are in rock-cut architecture, likely copied from wooden prototypes. These arches, with semi-circular tops, adorned ceilings in ancient temples and palaces. Over time, they became a common decorative motif on Hindu temples, projecting from walls as blind niches.



## Arch

In the 19th century, Alexander Cunningham, head of the Archaeological Survey of India, initially thought arches weren't part of Hindu temple architecture. However, pre-Islamic examples proved otherwise. Evidence, like wedge-shaped bricks in the Indus Valley civilization, suggests they could have been used. The earliest arch in South Asia was found in the Late Harappan Cemetery H culture, dating around 1900-1300 BCE. True arches in India date back to around the 5th century BCE or the 1st to 2nd century CE.







# CONCLUSION

---

In conclusion, ancient architecture is a testament to the ingenuity, craftsmanship, and cultural richness of civilizations across the world. From the monumental pyramids of Egypt to the intricate temples of India, ancient architects pushed the boundaries of engineering and design to create enduring masterpieces that continue to inspire awe and admiration today. Through the study of ancient architecture, we gain insights into the societal, religious, and technological advancements of our ancestors, highlighting the enduring legacy of their creativity and innovation.





**THANK YOU**